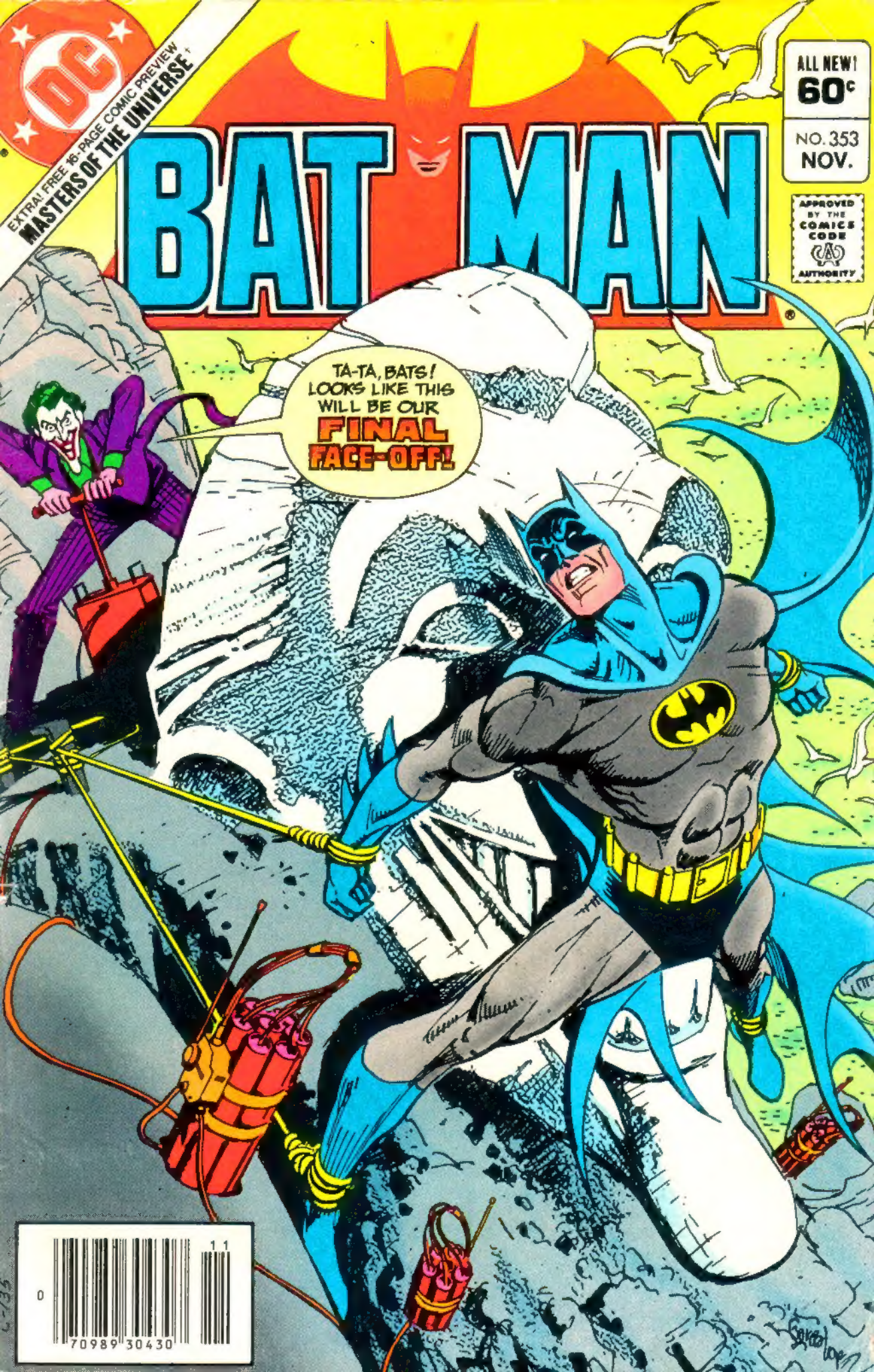
What, you were expecting someone else?

an MKnight25 Scan
same crappy scans
new OCD flavor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BAT MAN
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TA-TA, BATS! LOOKS LIKE THIS WILL BE OUR FINAL FACE-OFF!
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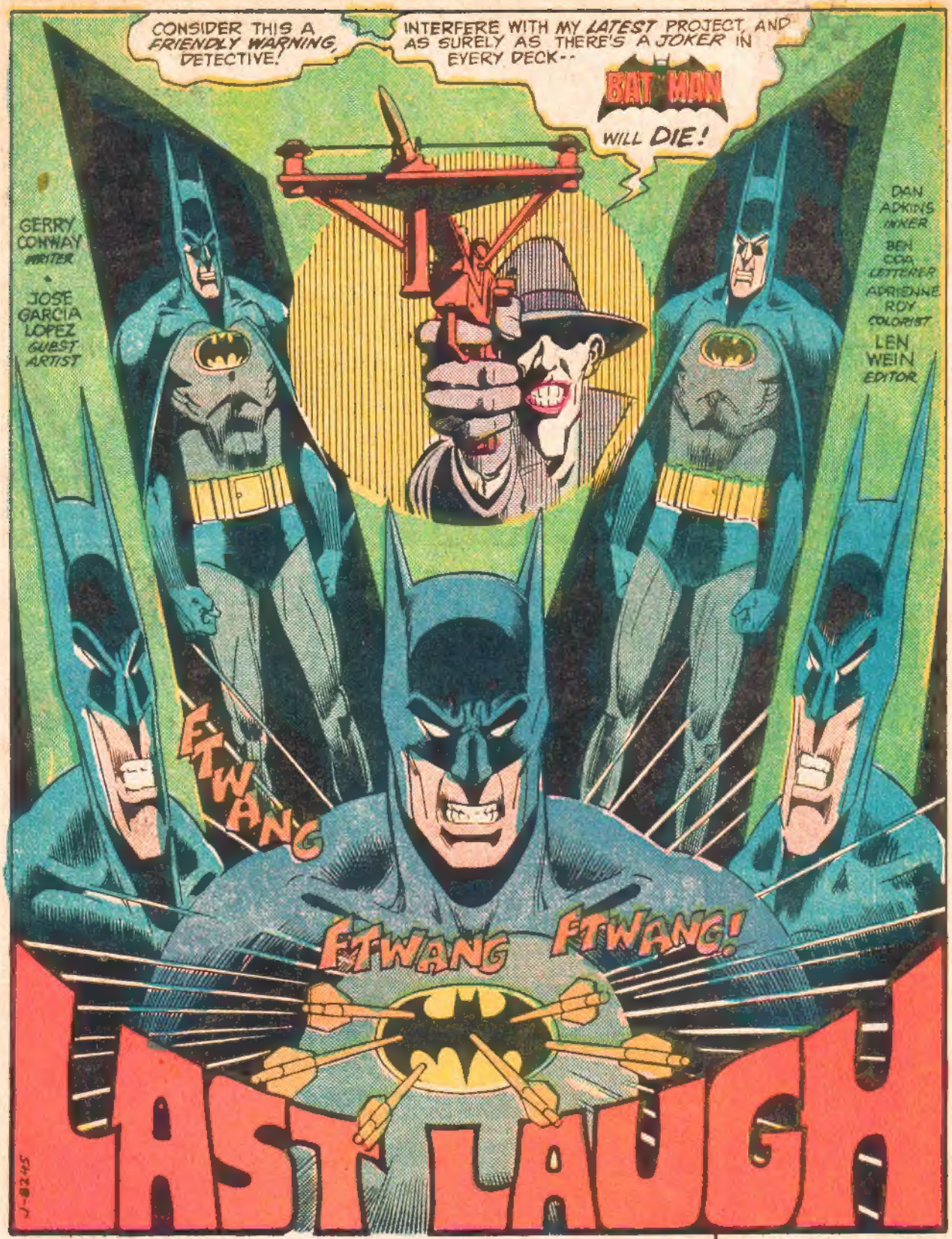

BATMAN, (USPS 045-340), Vol. 43, No. 353, November, 1982. Published monthly by DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Second Class Postage paid at New York, N.Y. and Additional Mailing Offices. Copyright © 1982 by DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

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SUBSCRIPTION DEPT.: DC COMICS INC., P.O. Box 1308-F, Fort Lee, N.J. 07024. Annual subscription rate $7.20. Outside U.S.A. $8.20.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to DC COMICS INC., P.O. Box 1308-F, Fort Lee, N.J. 07024.

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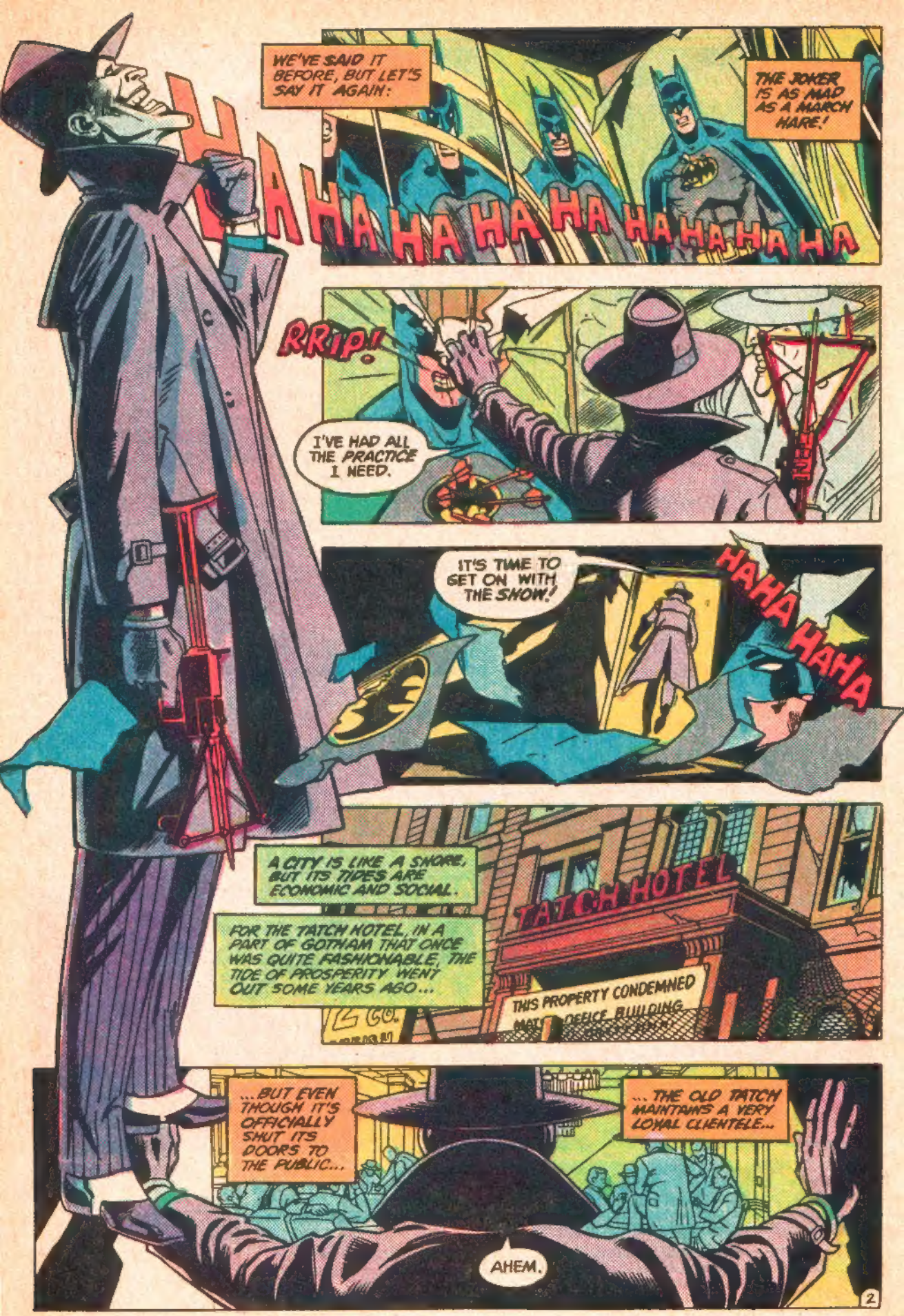
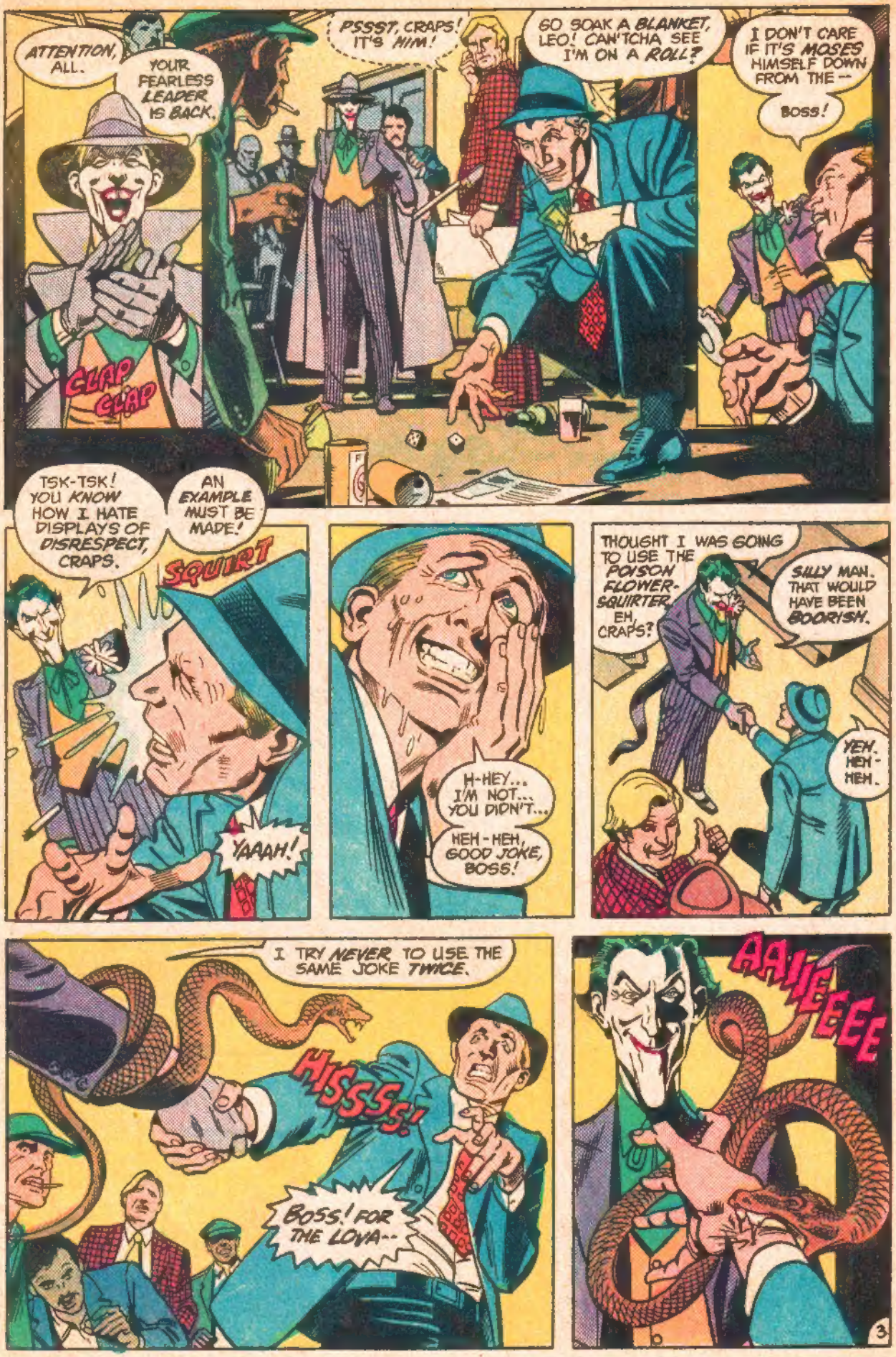
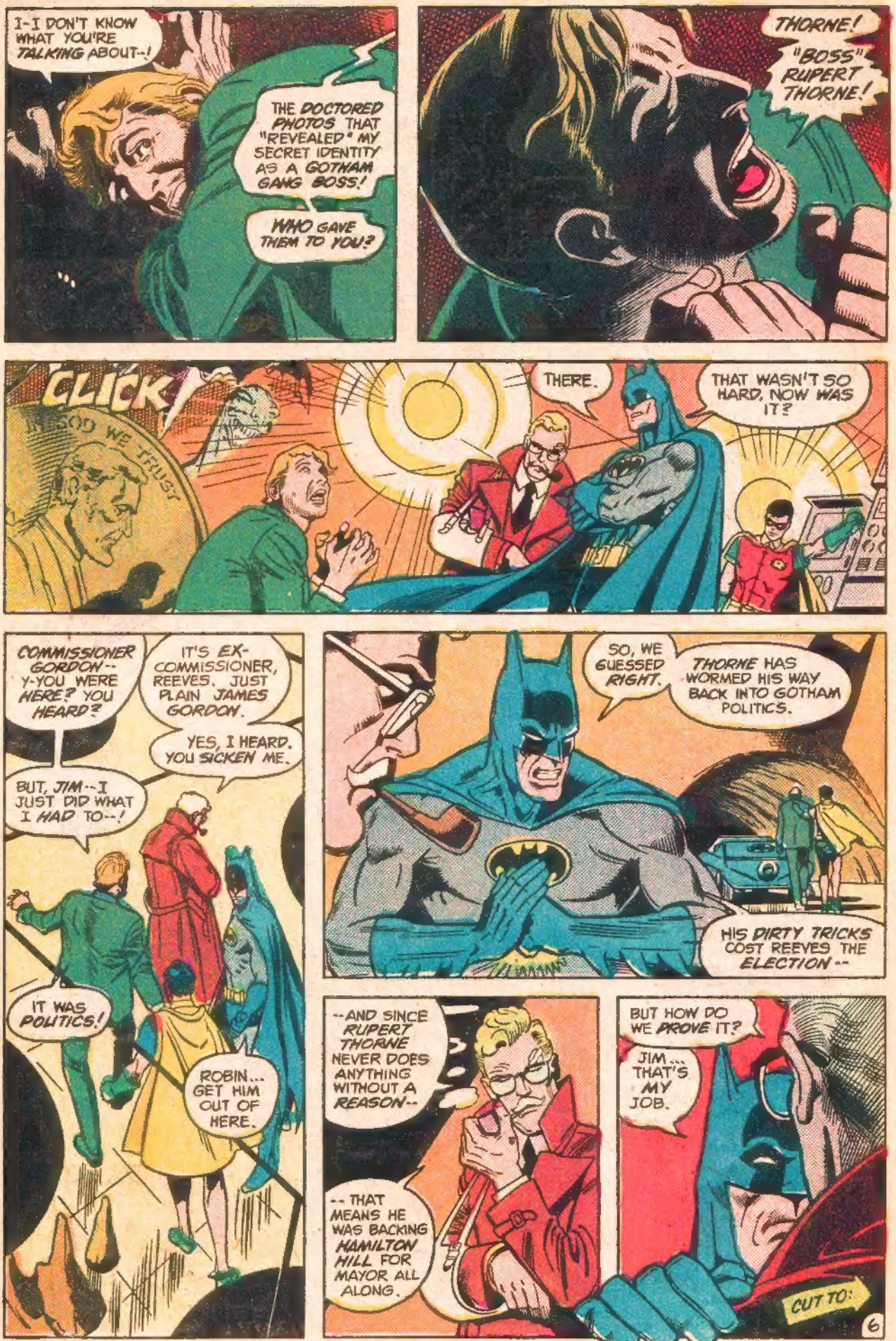

WE'VE SAID IT BEFORE, BUT LET'S SAY IT AGAIN:
THE JOKER IS AS MAD AS A MARCH HARE!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
RRIP!
I'VE HAD ALL THE PRACTICE I NEED.
IT'S TIME TO GET ON WITH THE SHOW!
HA HA HA HA
A CITY IS LIKE A SHORE, BUT ITS TIDES ARE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL.
FOR THE TATCH HOTEL, IN A PART OF GOTHAM THAT ONCE WAS QUITE FASHIONABLE, THE TIDE OF PROSPERITY WENT OUT SOME YEARS AGO...
TATCH HOTEL
THIS PROPERTY CONDEMNED
...BUT EVEN THOUGH IT'S OFFICIALLY SHUT ITS DOORS TO THE PUBLIC...
...THE OLD TATCH MAINTAINS A VERY LOYAL CLIENTELE...
AHEM.


ATTENTION, ALL.
YOUR FEARLESS LEADER IS BACK.
CLAP CLAP
PSSST, CRAPS! IT'S HIM!
GO SOAK A BLANKET, LEO! CAN'TCHA SEE I'M ON A ROLL?
I DON'T CARE IF IT'S MOSES HIMSELF DOWN FROM THE --
BOSS!
TSK-TSK! YOU KNOW HOW I HATE DISPLAYS OF DISRESPECT, CRAPS.
AN EXAMPLE MUST BE MADE!
SQUIRT
YAAAH!
H-HEY... I'M NOT... YOU DIDN'T...
HEH-HEH, GOOD JOKE, BOSS!
THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO USE THE POISON FLOWER-SQUIRTER, EH, CRAPS?
SILLY MAN. THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN BOORISH.
YEH. HEH-HEH.
I TRY NEVER TO USE THE SAME JOKE TWICE.
HISSSS!
BOSS! FOR THE LOVA--
AAIEEEE
3

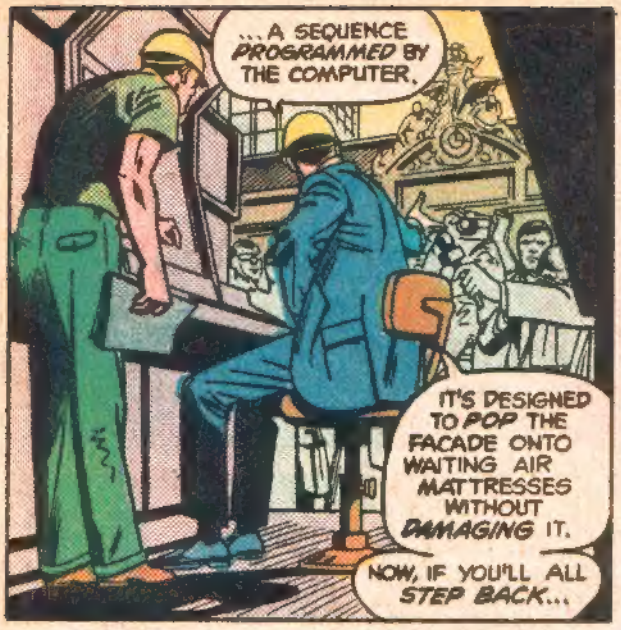
JUST BECAUSE I'VE BEEN AWAY IN PRISON, GENTLEMEN--
--THAT'S NO REASON TO LOSE YOUR DISCIPLINE.
LEO... CLEAN UP, WILL YOU?
SURE, BOSS.
BLAM!
WELL.
LET'S PUT THE PAST BEHIND US, SHALL WE?
I HAVE A NEW PROJECT, SOMETHING MOST AMUSING.
TAKE A LOOK, GENTLEMEN.
THIS ONE'S A KILLER...
THE GOTHAM P
LANDMARK GOTHAM GENERAL STATION TO BE DEMOLISHED
BROADWAY UNVEILS NEW MONUMENT TO KING OF MUSICALS
ONCE, ARTHUR REEVES JUST ABOUT HAD IT ALL.
HE WAS A CITY COUNCILMAN, AND THE SMART MONEY SAID HE'D BE GOTHAM'S NEXT MAYOR.
ON ELECTION EVE, 1981, IT ALL WENT WRONG.
AND FOR ARTHUR REEVES, NOTHING HAS GONE RIGHT SINCE...
ARTHUR REEVES...

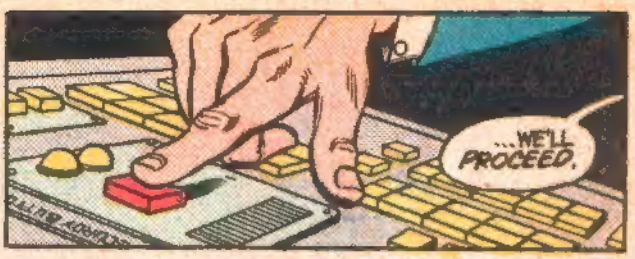
CONTINUED ON 3rd PAGE FOLLOWING

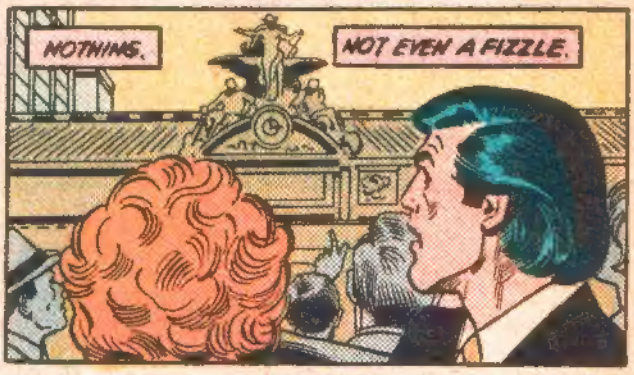
...IT'S TIME WE HAD A TALK.
Y-YOU!
S-STAY AWAY! I DIDN'T KNOW THE PICTURES WERE PHONY!
HE USED ME -- TRICKED ME! I WAS HIS PATSY! BUT YOU WON'T BELIEVE THAT!
YOU'RE GOING TO KILL ME!
SWIT!
OH NO, OH-- PLEASE NO--!
KRAK!
REEVES... WAKE UP.
TELL ME WHO GAVE YOU THE PHOTOS.
6

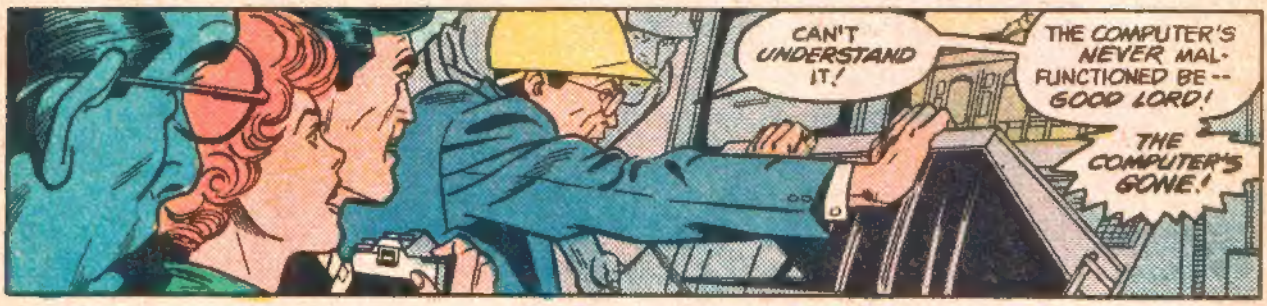

I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT--!
THE DOCTORED PHOTOS THAT "REVEALED" MY SECRET IDENTITY AS A GOTHAM GANG BOSS!
WHO GAVE THEM TO YOU?
THORNE!
"BOSS" RUPERT THORNE!
CLICK
IN GOD WE TRUST
THERE.
THAT WASN'T SO HARD, NOW WAS IT?
COMMISSIONER GORDON-- Y-YOU WERE HERE? YOU HEARD?
IT'S EX-COMMISSIONER, REEVES. JUST PLAIN JAMES GORDON.
YES, I HEARD. YOU SICKEN ME.
BUT, JIM--I JUST DID WHAT I HAD TO--!
IT WAS POLITICS!
ROBIN... GET HIM OUT OF HERE.
SO, WE GUESSED RIGHT.
THORNE HAS WORMED HIS WAY BACK INTO GOTHAM POLITICS.
HIS DIRTY TRICKS COST REEVES THE ELECTION --
--AND SINCE RUPERT THORNE NEVER DOES ANYTHING WITHOUT A REASON--
-- THAT MEANS HE WAS BACKING HAMILTON HILL FOR MAYOR ALL ALONG.
BUT HOW DO WE PROVE IT?
JIM... THAT'S MY JOB.
CUT TO:
6

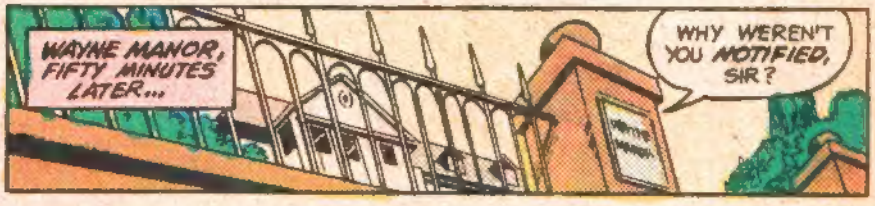
MORNING, THE NEXT DAY...
--THIS IS OLIVIA ORTEGA FOR SPOTLIGHT NEWS.
WE'RE AT GOTHAM CENTRAL STATION, AN HISTORIC LANDMARK--SHORTLY TO BE TORN DOWN IN THE NAME OF PROGRESS.
FOR MORE DETAILS, LET'S--
VICKI ASKED ME TO MEET HER HERE THIS MORNING--SHE'S PHOTOGRAPHING ALL THIS FOR PICTURE NEWS MAGAZINE--
--BUT EVEN THOUGH SHE'S PUTTING UP A BOLD FRONT, SHE SEEMS MOODY, WITHDRAWN!
IF BRUCE WAYNE COULD SHARE VICKI VALE'S THOUGHTS, HE'D KNOW...
SOMETHING'S REALLY DISTURBING HER--BUT WHAT?
BANG
...FOR EVEN AS SHE STANDS SMILING, SHE'S REliving A NIGHTMARE:
REMEMBERING, IN AWFUL VIVID DETAIL, HOW SHE WITNESSED A LATE-NIGHT CONFRONTATION BETWEEN RUPERT THORNE AND HER PUBLISHER MORTON MONROE...
...A CONFRONTATION THAT CLIMAXED IN MONROE'S SUICIDE!
...YES, MS. ORTEGA, WE'RE TRYING TO PRESERVE THE STATION'S LANDMARK FACADE...
...SO WE'VE DEVELOPED A SPECIAL COMPUTER-CONTROLLED FUSE.
EACH EXPLOSIVE CHARGE FIXED TO THE FACADE WILL BE ACTIVATED IN SEQUENCE FROM THIS COMMAND POST...


...A SEQUENCE PROGRAMMED BY THE COMPUTER.
IT'S DESIGNED TO POP THE FACADE ONTO WAITING AIR MATTRESSES WITHOUT DAMAGING IT.
NOW, IF YOU'LL ALL STEP BACK...









WHEN THE JOKER ESCAPES ARKHAM ASYLUM, THE POLICE ALWAYS-- OH.
EXACTLY, ALFRED!
WITH COMMISSIONER PETER PAULING NOW IN CHARGE--
-- THE BATMAN IS ON THE OUTS.

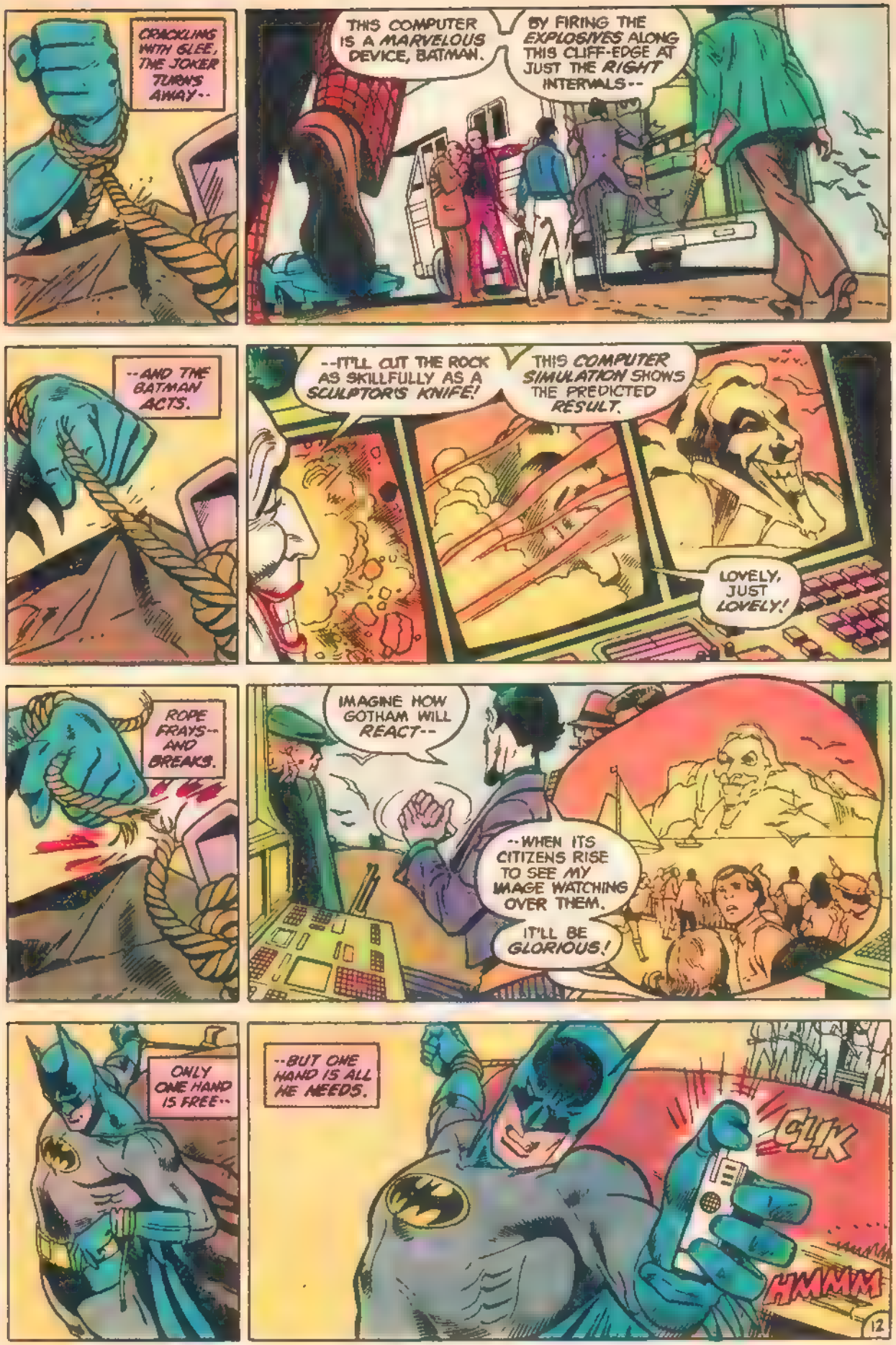
IF COMMISSIONER PAULING AND MAYOR HILL ARE INDEED PAWNS OF "BOSS" THORNE--
--THEN NOT ONLY YOU, BUT ALL GOTHAM, IS IN TERRIBLE DANGER!
8

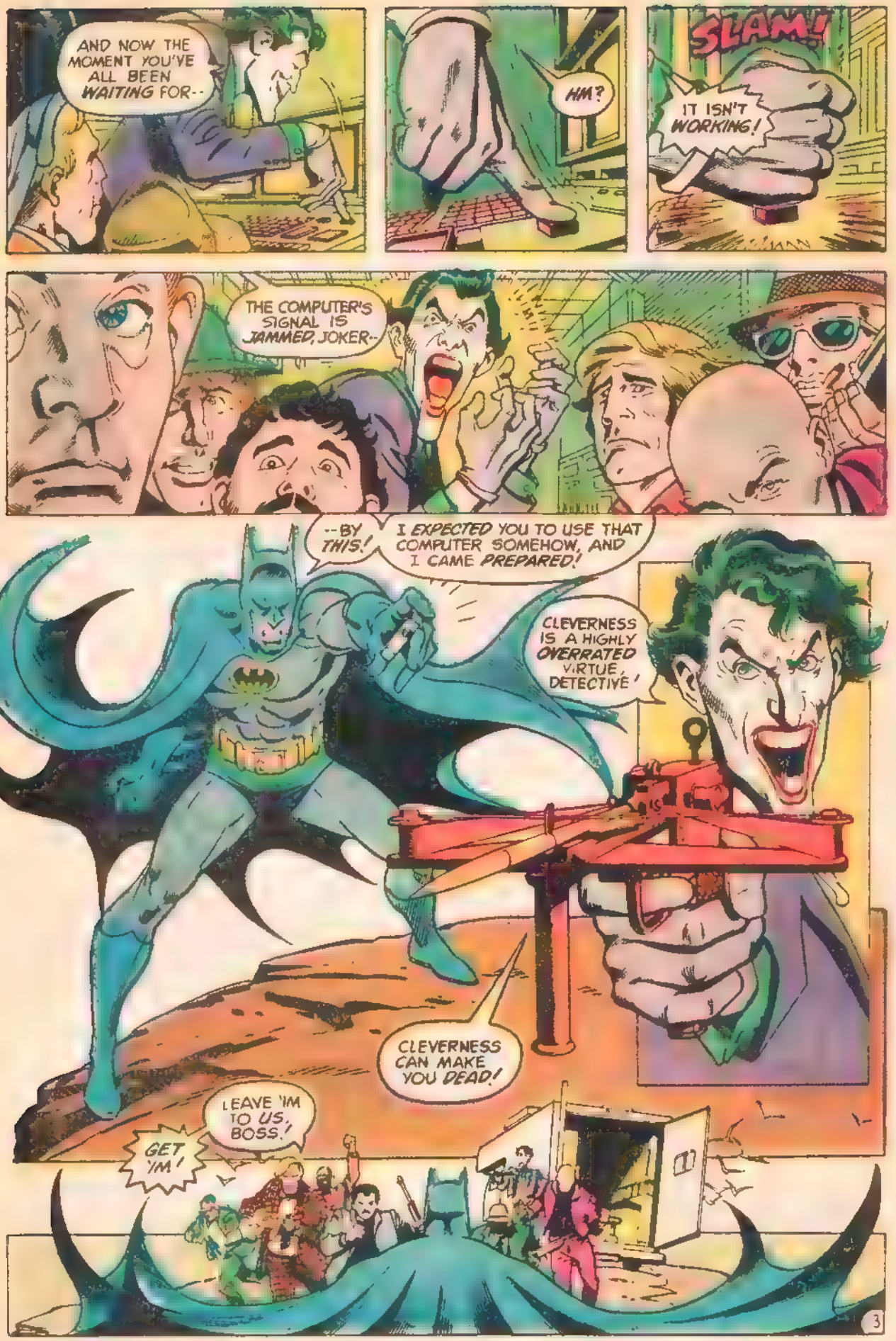
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

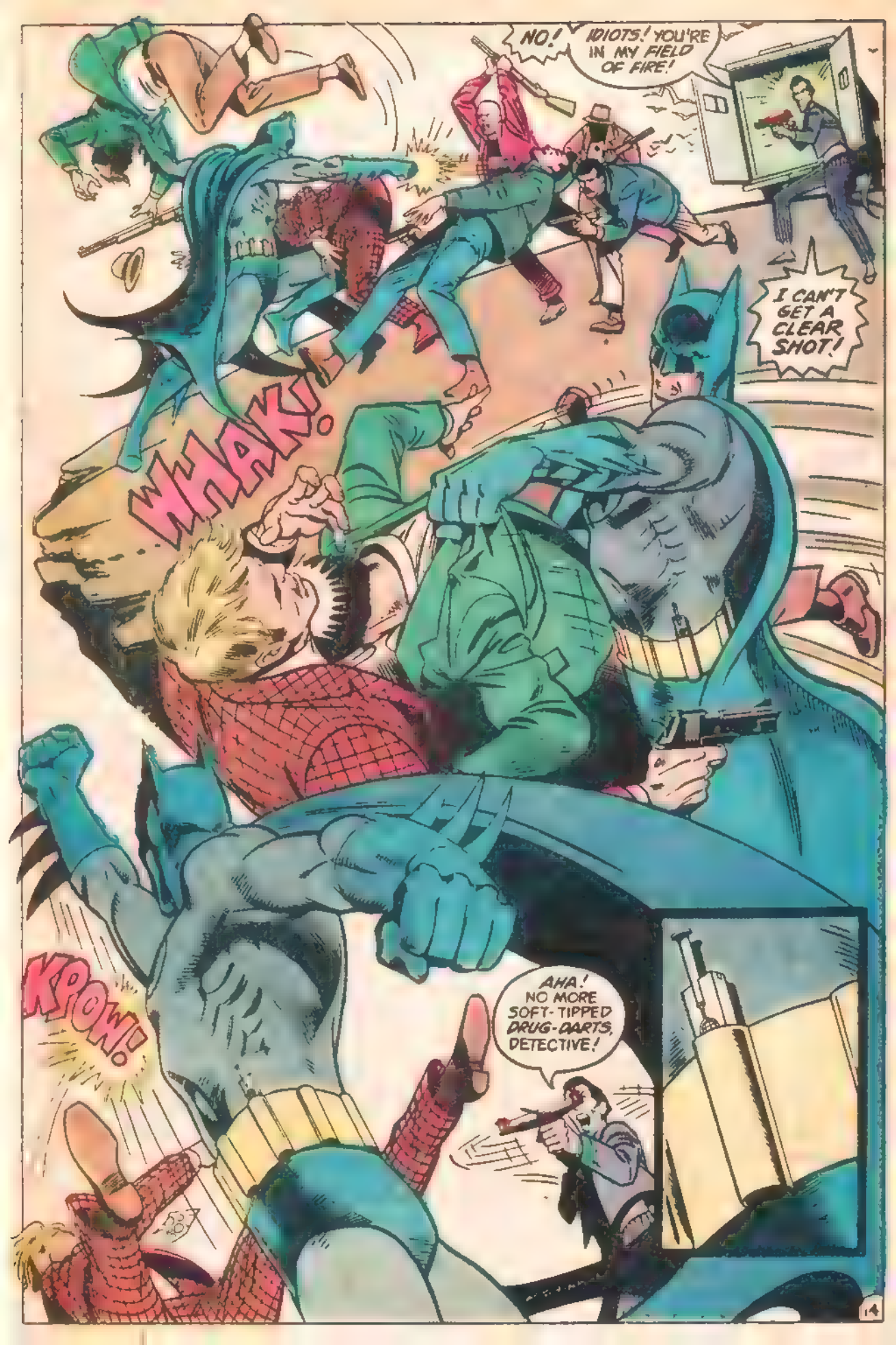
ONE WORRY AT A TIME, ALFRED.
ANY LUCK WITH THAT LAND-PURCHASE SEARCH I ASKED FOR?
NOTHING IN GOTHAM, SIR--BUT THE STATE RECORDS IN NEW JERSEY SHOW A RECENT PURCHASE OF TEN ACRES ON THE PALISADES--
--TWO MILES SOUTH OF EXIT 40 ON ROUTE 9 --BY A MR. HARLAN QUINN!
OBVIOUS ALIAS, SIR.
DO YOU THINK--
WHY YES, I SUPPOSE YOU DO.
VRRRRMM
THE NEW JERSEY PALISADES OPPOSITE GOTHAM CITY. ONE HOUR LATER...
WHEN THE JOKER STOLE A DEMOLITION-COMPUTER FROM A CONSTRUCTION SITE--
--IT DIDN'T TAKE TOO MUCH IMAGINATION TO REALIZE HE MIGHT BE PLANNING A LITTLE CONSTRUCTION OF HIS OWN.
BINGO!
I EXPECTED SOMETHING LIKE THIS:
DYNAMITE --PLANTED ALONG THE CLIFF EDGE--

--ATTACHED TO A RADIO-CONTROLLED FUSE.
IT ALL FITS.
A SOUND.
HE SPINS ABOUT, AS LIGHT PINS HIM--
--BUT EVEN AS HE TURNS, THE DRUGGED ARROW STRIKES--
HAHAHA
--THROWING HIM BACKWARD INTO DARKNESS AND SILENCE.
RISE AND SHINE, DETECTIVE.
IT'S TIME TO WAKE UP, YOU SLEEPY-HEAD.
HA HA HA
HA HA
WE WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO MISS YOUR OWN EXECUTION.

I'VE GOT AS STRONG AN EGO AS THE NEXT MAN, JOKER.
BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE YOU WENT TO ALL THIS TROUBLE JUST TO KILL ME.
IT'S A WISE MAN WHO KNOWS HIS OWN VALUE, BATMAN.
YOU'RE RIGHT, OF COURSE. KILLING YOU IS JUST A PLEASANT PLUS.
ODD YOU SHOULD MENTION EGO, THOUGH.
MY OWN BRUISED EGO IS THE CAUSE OF TODAY'S FESTIVITIES.
HERE I AM, THE CLOWN PRINCE OF CRIME-- AND DO I HAVE A MONUMENT TO MY GREATNESS?
NO!
STATION EMOLISHED
BROADWAY UNVE NEW MONUMEN KING OF MUSICALS
INSTEAD, GOTHAM ERECTS STATUES TO SONG-AND-DANCE MEN!
THAT'S WHY I'M CREATING MY OWN MONUMENT, BATMAN.
AND NOW YOU'LL BE PART OF IT-- FOREVER!


CRACKLING WITH GLEE, THE JOKER TURNS AWAY--
THIS COMPUTER IS A MARVELOUS DEVICE, BATMAN.
BY FIRING THE EXPLOSIVES ALONG THIS CLIFF-EDGE AT JUST THE RIGHT INTERVALS--
--AND THE BATMAN ACTS.
--IT'LL CUT THE ROCK AS SKILLFULLY AS A SCULPTOR'S KNIFE!
THIS COMPUTER SIMULATION SHOWS THE PREDICTED RESULT.
LOVELY, JUST LOVELY!
ROPE FRAYS-- AND BREAKS.
IMAGINE HOW GOTHAM WILL REACT--
--WHEN ITS CITIZENS RISE TO SEE MY IMAGE WATCHING OVER THEM.
IT'LL BE GLORIOUS!
ONLY ONE HAND IS FREE--
--BUT ONE HAND IS ALL HE NEEDS.
CLK
HMMM
12


AND NOW THE MOMENT YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR--
HM?
SLAM!
IT ISN'T WORKING!
THE COMPUTER'S SIGNAL IS JAMMED, JOKER--
--BY THIS!
I EXPECTED YOU TO USE THAT COMPUTER SOMEHOW, AND I CAME PREPARED!
CLEVERNESS IS A HIGHLY OVERRATED VIRTUE, DETECTIVE!
CLEVERNESS CAN MAKE YOU DEAD!
LEAVE 'IM TO US, BOSS!
GET 'IM!


NO!
IDIOTS! YOU'RE IN MY FIELD OF FIRE!
I CAN'T GET A CLEAR SHOT!
WHAK!
KROW!
AHA! NO MORE SOFT-TIPPED DRUG-DARTS, DETECTIVE!

FOR YOU, ONLY THE BEST--STAINLESS STEEL POINTS!
THANG
CRUNCH
KAA-BOOM!
OH, NO YOU DON'T, JOKER.
DROWNING'S TOO EASY.
YOU'RE COMING BACK WITH--
GOOD LORD!
SOMETIMES, IF THE SHOCK IS GREAT ENOUGH--

--EVEN THE BATMAN CAN BE LEFT SPEECHLESS
IT WORKED..
I'VE WON, BATMAN! DO WHAT YOU WANT-- I'VE WON!
LOOK AGAIN, JOKER.
IT WORKED!
OHHH, NO!
MY BEAUTIFUL MONUMENT--
IT'S COMING APART! NO! NO! NO!
RRRUMMBLEE!
MY JAMMER MUST HAVE OFF-BALANCED THE DELICATE TIMING OF THE EXPLOSIVES, JOKER.
I GUESS I'VE HAD THE LAST LAUGH, AFTER ALL!
POLICE
NEXT! IN DETECTIVE #520-- "THE GHOST of HUGO STRANGE"
end
10

In case you haven't already noticed this month's editorial credits, Len Wein takes over the editing chores on all three of the Batman books effective with the November cover dates. Dick Giordano's over-demanding job as managing editor, has reluctantly forced him to relinquish his editing duties over to Lucky Len! We'll accept your kind words and pass them on to D. G. We think he's great, too!

* * * * *

Dear Dick, Gerry, Gene and Klaus,

Batman #348 left me of divided mind initially, but after the second reading, I came away very satisfied. The Batman tale was good, but the show was stolen by Catwoman.

First things first. "Shadow Play" was good. It was nice to see Bruce and Dick take a moment to be human and laugh. Good touch. His search for the monstrous Mr. Langstrom was good, very good. Two masters of the shadows and darkness in their own natural element; hunting, stalking, following each other Thank goodness he's cured now Hopefully he won't try the Man-Bat bit for a while—I (quite frankly) was getting just a tad tired of ol' fur-jowls. Ah, well . Good, good story. Gene's pencils and Klaus' renderings are a really nice touch. For some reason the Batman comes off as more human in their renderings. I especially liked page 11, panel 3. Good work, fellas.

The Catwoman, you know, I just wrote you a letter yesterday bemoaning Batgirl and asking for the Catwoman to pop up in Detective Silly me—she's in Batman Oops. And I love her! Bruce Jones' scripting is great Trevor Von Eeden, whom I've liked for a long time, and Pablo Marcos' magnificent work here is reminiscent of Marshall Rogers and Michael Golden. It's so nice to see a super-heroine brunette Is there anything in the works for a Superman/Catwoman team-up? They would be an interesting team, accentuating each other's strong points All in all, a very good book

Toodles!
SP4 John D. Long
311-68-8198
Specker Barracks Box 4925
Fort Leonard Wood, MO 65473

If you like what Trevor did with Catwoman, you're just going to love Trevor's work on the Batman Annual! Yes, you heard right. The 8th Batman annual hit the stands about two weeks ago, and if you haven't already been lucky enough to get a copy, run out right now and find one! This 42 page spectacular was pencilled and inked by Trevor and scripted by Mike W Barr, that old mystery maven himself. You won't want to miss it! As for Catwoman, no plans yet for a team-up with the Man of Steel in the relatively near future, but who can tell what's going to happen.

* * * * *

Dear Gerry, Gene, Klaus, Ben, Adrienne and Dick,

I realize my first line is a bit lengthy, but I addressed this letter to all of you since I get a distinct "team" feeling from the book that you are putting out.

Speaking of teams, it's great to see Gerry, Gene, and Klaus back together again after an absence of a couple of months. You guys have got this book (along with Detective) looking its best in years. Please keep it up as long as possible. I realize due to the flow of creative talent inherent in the comic book industry no team stays together forever, but just this once I wish that weren't so.

The current storyline is excellent. It certainly is good to see Vicki again after all these years, and Poison Ivy and Boss Thorne, etc. Please bring the Catwoman back into Bruce Wayne's life. She is a character who really brings a lot to the book. I can't help but feel you've got big plans for her somewhere down the road. Speaking of Catwoman, as long as she isn't being included in the book's lead feature, I do enjoy seeing her in the back-up slot. Bruce Jones and Trevor Von Eeden are doing a great job with her. The beginning of the current storyline looks quite promising. You know for once there is truth in advertising, Batman *is* published twice a month. Please keep it up.

Best bat wishes,
Craig A. Larson
280 Clearfield Drive
Williamsville, NY

This issue was one of those, Craig, where unfortunately our team wasn't able to get together because of deadline problems, but I'm sure you weren't the least disappointed with the guest artists. We'd like to thank Jose Luis Garcia Lopez and Dan Adkins for turning out an incredible-looking story. It's hard to beat a twosome like that! We have every intention of keeping the cross continuity going between Batman and Detective. We've gotten the best storyline in years (not to mention exquisite art) and the best reader response as well

* * * * *

Dear Dick,

Batman #348 was a glorious homecoming. Not only were Batman and Robin back in Wayne Manor, but we were also treated to the welcome intrusion of Gene Colan's stunningly visualized Man-Bat

And last I forget, how about that Jim Aparo cover? I had almost given him up for dead on this title.

Yours truly,
Jeffrey Lowndes
809 Sunset Street
Scranton, Pa 18509

* * * * *

Dear Dick,

Batman and Robin #348 had the best Gene Colan art ever! Of course, Klaus Janson did help some I personally did not like Klaus' inks, but I think this issue changed my mind. As usual, Gerry Conway scripted a great Batman story. He's definitely one of DC's better writers. If you don't believe me, just thumb through this issue.

Man-Bat is once again cured of his "curse" and all is well. Or is it? Page nine shows a distraught James Gordon left "homeless" and page ten shows Vicki Vale trying to improve Batman's I.D. Geez, I'm glad I don't live on Earth-1! I have enough problems as it is! I just hope that James Gordon is brought out of unemployment soon (why do I feel a nagging thought of him joining up with Jason Bard and Kirk Langstrom in the private eye biz?)! If I remember correctly, Kirk was partners with Jason.

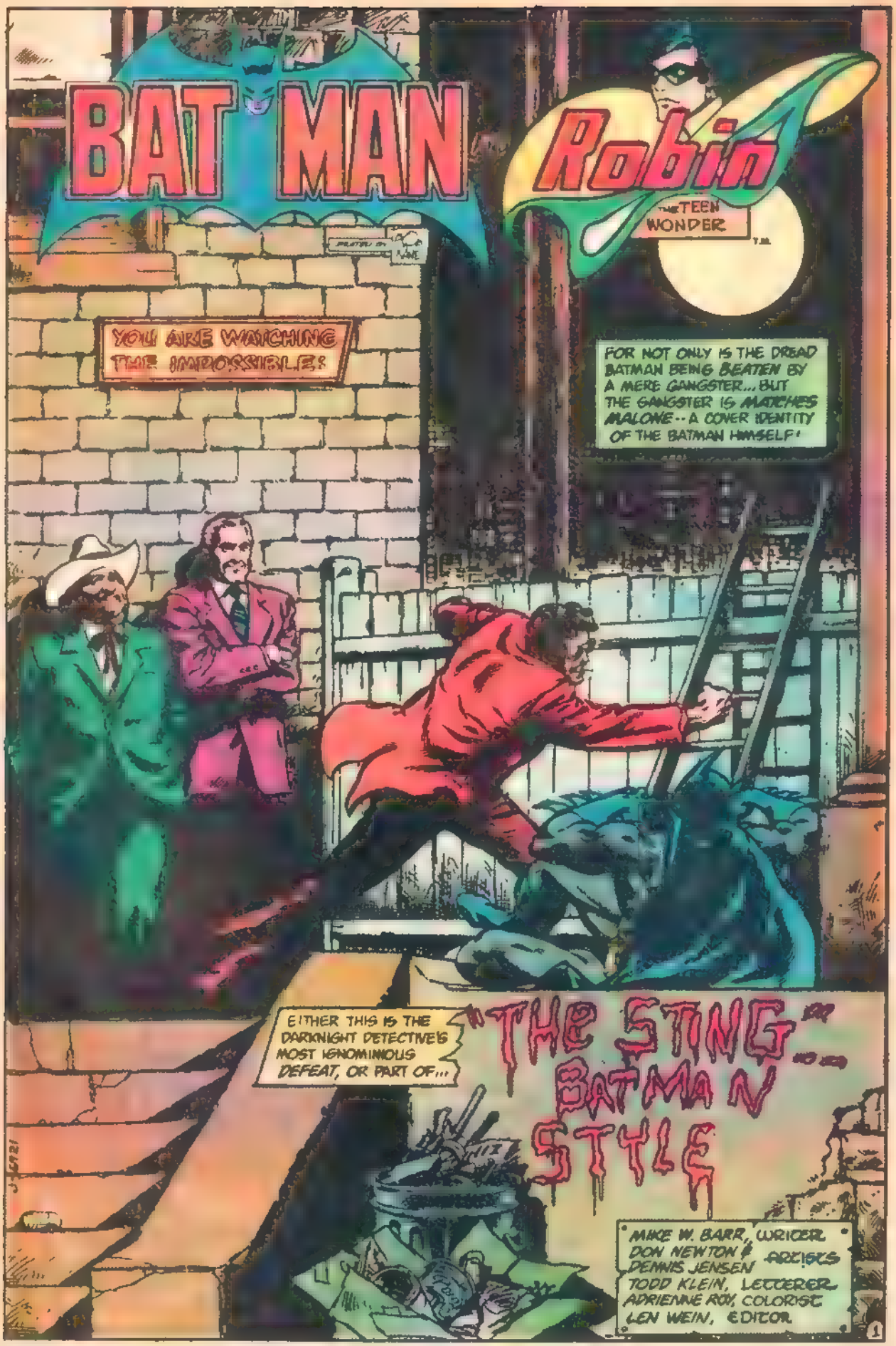
The Catwoman back-up series is good! Trevor Von Eeden and Pablo Marcos are doing a superlative job on the art and Bruce Jones is doing the same on the story line. All these pluses and no minuses! I think everything is turning out okay! Most of the credit should go to the one and only Dick Giordano! Thank you for revitalizing my belief in heroes, Dick!

Kevin T Brown
7846 F W Lawrence Ave
Norridge, Ill. 60656

Well, Kevin, your nagging suspicion proved to be true! The former commissioner of Gotham City has kicked his melancholia(just as you predicted) and has gotten together with Jason Bard. Are you sure you don't work here? Their latest mind-boggling case, the uncovering of Gotham's corrupt politicians

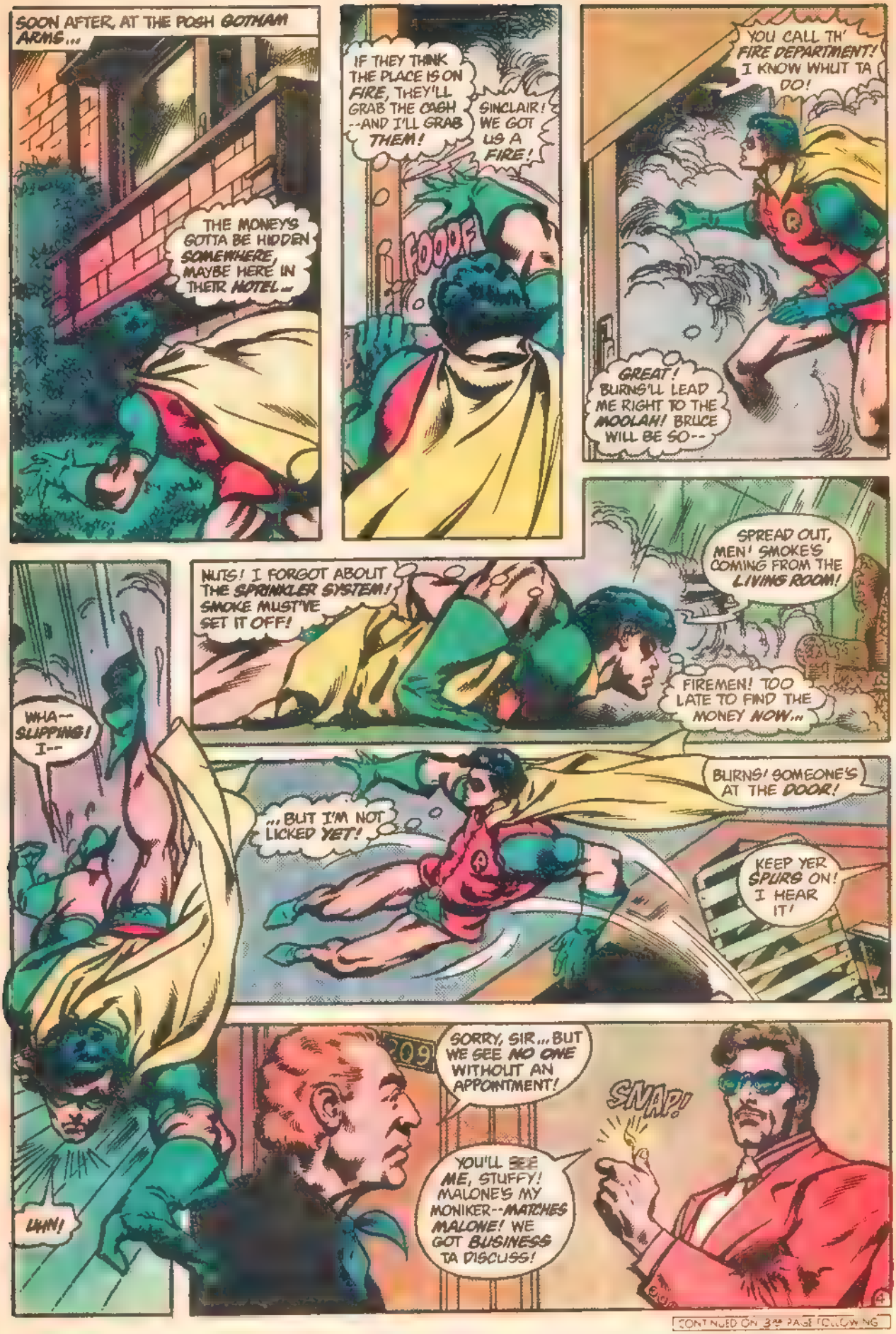
* * * * *

Next issue, Gerry and Don Newton bring you a book length bat-thriller! See you then!


BAT MAN
Robin
THE TEEN WONDER
YOU ARE WATCHING THE IMPOSSIBLE!
FOR NOT ONLY IS THE DREAD BATMAN BEING BEATEN BY A MERE GANGSTER... BUT THE GANGSTER IS MATCHES MALONE -- A COVER IDENTITY OF THE BATMAN HIMSELF!
EITHER THIS IS THE DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE'S MOST IGNOMINIOUS DEFEAT, OR PART OF...
"THE STING" BATMAN STYLE
MIKE W. BARR, WRITER
DON NEWTON & DENNIS JENSEN ARTISTS
TODD KLEIN, LETTERER
ADRIENNE ROY, COLORIST
LEN WEIN, EDITOR
1

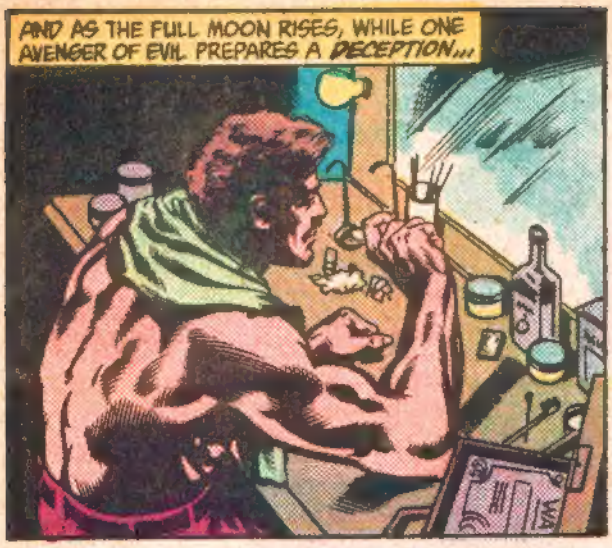
IT TRAVERSES THE GOTHAM CITY STREETS, FILLING THE CRISP AFTERNOON AIR WITH SOUND...
KEEP OUR KIDS OFF THE STREETS--AND OUT OF TROUBLE! GIVE TO THE GOTHAM BOYS' LEAGUE!
HELP ROBIN FIGHT JUVENILE DELINQUENCY GIVE TO THE GOTHAM BOYS' LEAGUE
BUT SOON THE LOUDSPEAKER STOPS --TO BE REPLACED BY THE DRY RUSTLE OF BILLS...
NO NEED TO SHOVE, FOLKS ...WE'LL BE GLAD TO TAKE AS MUCH AS YOU WANT TO GIVE!
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF 'EM EITHER--BUT IF ROBIN'S ENDORSING THEM, THEY RE LEGIT!
AND SEVERAL THOUSAND DONATIONS LATER
WOW! MR SINCLAIR, THIS MUST'VE BEEN OUR BEST DAY THIS WEEK! WHAT'S THE TOTAL, MR BURNS?
NOW, SON, I TOLD YOU TO CALL ME BRONCO--BRONCO BURNS! BUT WE'RE ROLLIN' IN DOUGH!
IF I INTERPRET MY ASSOCIATE'S COLORFUL JARGON CORRECTLY, ROBIN ...
..WE'VE MORE THAN MADE OUR QUOTA FOR THE WEEK! FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS!
TERRIFIC! CATCH YOU NEXT WEEK!
BAGGING CROOKS WITH BRUCE IS GREAT, BUT THIS GIVES ME A CHANCE TO HELP KIDS...
..AND I'D RATHER SEE 'EM PUNCH NG BAGS THAN COPS, ANY DAY...!
PRETTY WEAK PUN... LACKS PUNCH...!
=YAWN= I AM TIRED...
FOR EIGHT HOURS, DICK GRAYSON SLEEPS THE SLEEP OF THE BONE-WEARY. HE DOES NOT DREAM, WHICH IS FORTUNATE...
FOR THE NEXT MORNING WILL BR NG NIGHTMARES ENOUGH!
--POLICE REPORT NO LEADS IN THE 50,000 DOLLAR ROBBERY OF GOTHAM BOYS' LEAGUE HEAD-QUARTERS, BROKEN INTO OVERNIGHT!
WHAT TH--?!
CALM DOWN, DICK...
2

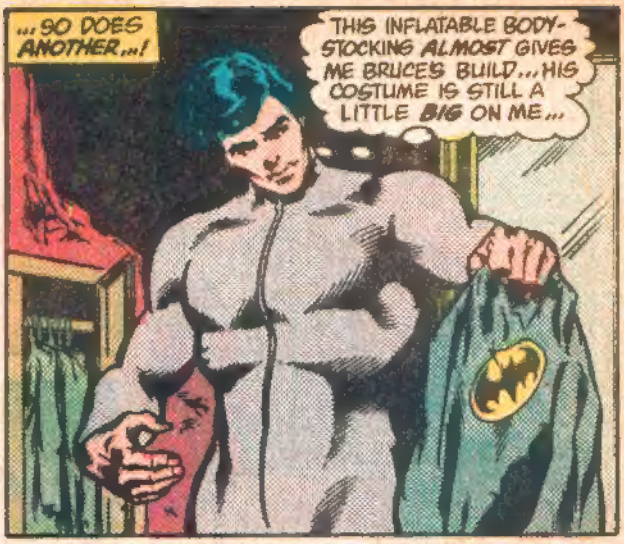
... I'VE READ THE EARLY POLICE REPORTS, AND SOMETHING DEFINITELY SMELLS! YOU'LL NEED THE BATMAN'S HELP ON THIS ONE!
AW, COME ON, BRUCE... NO NEED FOR BOTH OF US TO SOLVE A SIMPLE ROBBERY!
KLIK
ROBIN RAISED THOSE FUNDS, AND ROBIN SHOULD RECOVER THEM-- SOLO! I-- HUH?!
THOSE PHOTOS... MUG SHOTS OF SINCLAIR AND BURNS! BRUCE, WHAT'S GOING ON?
HAVE A SEAT, DICK-- THIS IS GOING TO HURT!
SINCLAIR AND BURNS HAVE POLICE RECORDS OLDER THAN YOU ARE! THEY'RE CON MEN, DICK!
THEY CLAIM THE MONEY WAS STOLEN, AND NO ONE CAN PROVE OTHERWISE!
I... I NEVER EVEN RAN A CHECK ON THEM... I REALLY BLEW IT THIS TIME...
CHALK IT UP TO EXPERIENCE, SON... BUT DON'T WORRY-- I HAVE A PLAN TO STING THOSE TWO CON-ARTISTS BACK!
I APPRECIATE THAT, BRUCE, BUT I MESSED UP ON MY OWN--
--AND I'LL GET THAT MONEY BACK... ON MY OWN!
HAVE IT YOUR WAY! GOOD LUCK, CHUM!
ROBIN MEANS WELL, BUT HE'S IN OVER HIS HEAD THIS TIME...
WHETHER HE LIKES IT OR NOT, HE'S GOING TO GET SOME HELP-- IF NOT FROM THE BATMAN...
...THEN FROM SOMEONE ELSE!
3


SOON AFTER, AT THE POSH GOTHAM ARMS...
THE MONEY'S GOTTA BE HIDDEN SOMEWHERE, MAYBE HERE IN THEIR HOTEL...
IF THEY THINK THE PLACE IS ON FIRE, THEY'LL GRAB THE CASH --AND I'LL GRAB THEM!
SINCLAIR! WE GOT US A FIRE!
FOOOF
YOU CALL TH' FIRE DEPARTMENT! I KNOW WHUT TA DO!
GREAT! BURNS'LL LEAD ME RIGHT TO THE MOOLAH! BRUCE WILL BE SO--
SPREAD OUT, MEN! SMOKE'S COMING FROM THE LIVING ROOM!
NUTS! I FORGOT ABOUT THE SPRINKLER SYSTEM! SMOKE MUST'VE SET IT OFF!
FIREMEN! TOO LATE TO FIND THE MONEY NOW...
WHA-- SLIPPING! I--
BURNS! SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR!
...BUT I'M NOT LICKED YET!
KEEP YER SPURS ON! I HEAR IT!
209
SORRY, SIR... BUT WE SEE NO ONE WITHOUT AN APPOINTMENT!
SNAP!
YOU'LL SEE ME, STUFFY! MALONE'S MY MONIKER--MATCHES MALONE! WE GOT BUSINESS TA DISCUSS!
UHN!

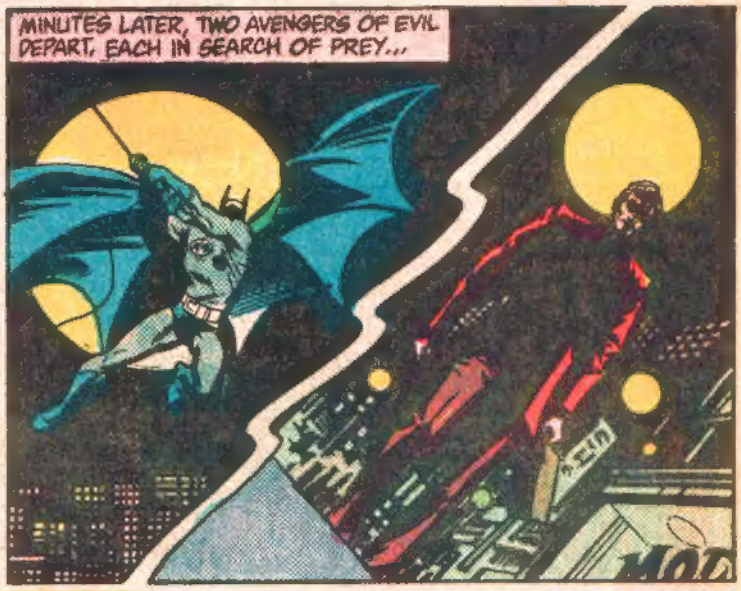
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

TAKE A LOAD OFF YER FEET, MALONE -- BUT CAREFUL WITH THE MATCHES! WE ALREADY HAD ONE SET-TO WITH THE SPRINKLERS T'DAY!
I C'N SEE THAT!
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH US, MALONE? YOU'RE A GANGSTER! MY ASSOCIATE AND I ARE--
CON MEN, SINCLAIR-- FIRST CLASS! THAT SCAM YOU PULLED ON ROBIN WAS A-1 PRIME!
"SCAM"? MY DEAR SIR, WE WERE ROBBED--
THE COPS MAY BUY THAT, SINCLAIR-- I KNOW BETTER!
THIS IS WHAT'CHA CALL A BEARER'S BOND! MATURES IN SIX MONTHS TO BE WORTH A GRAND TO THE OWNER! I LIFTED A HUNDRED OF 'EM FROM WAYNE ENTERPRISES!
WHY IN TARNATION TELL US, MR. MALONE?
CALL ME MATCHES, BRONCO--WE'RE GONNA BE PARTNERS!
I GOT A HUNDRED GRAND WORTH'A BONDS,--BUT NOT FOR SIX MONTHS! I NEED FIFTY GRAND, CASH, BY TOMORROW!
WE TRADE-- CASH FOR BONDS-- AND YOU INCREASE YOUR INVESTMENT ONE HUNDRED PERCENT. WHADDAYA SAY?
THE EYES OF THE CON MEN MEET--AND AN INSTANT LATER...
WE ACCEPT YOUR PROPOSITION, MR.--UH--MATCHES! SHALL WE SAY... MIDNIGHT... AT THE ALLEY OFF SPICER STREET?
DEAL! PLEASURE DOIN' BUSINESS WITH YA...
SNAP
...SUCKERS! THE AMATEURS NEVER QUIT WHILE THEY'RE AHEAD!
NOW IF I CAN JUST KEEP DICK FROM CATCHING ON...!
AND THAT EVENING...
YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE THE EVENING PATROL, CHUM! I'VE GOT JLA SATELLITE DUTY!
SURE, BRUCE! NO SWEAT!
GREAT! HE'LL BE OUT OF MY WAY!
9


AND AS THE FULL MOON RISES, WHILE ONE AVENGER OF EVIL PREPARES A DECEPTION...

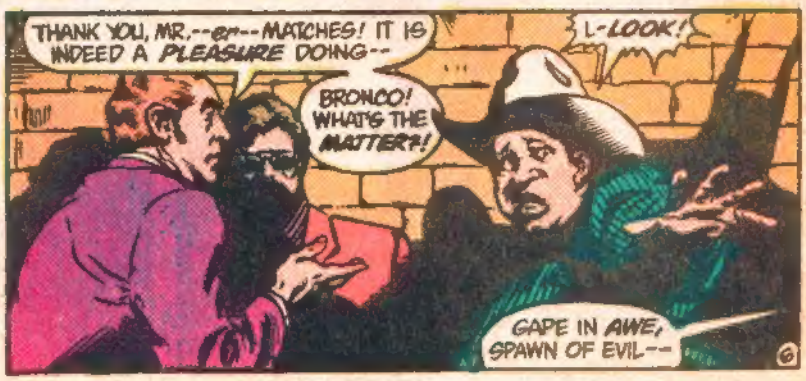

...SO DOES ANOTHER...!
THIS INFLATABLE BODY-STOCKING ALMOST GIVES ME BRUCE'S BUILD...HIS COSTUME IS STILL A LITTLE BIG ON ME...

...BUT IN THE NIGHT, IF I HOLD THE CAPE AROUND ME...
...IT JUST MIGHT WORK!


MINUTES LATER, TWO AVENGERS OF EVIL DEPART, EACH IN SEARCH OF PREY...

...BUT ONE FINDS THE HUNTING GROUND HAS BEEN RELOCATED!
I GOT HERE JUST IN TIME--WONDER WHERE THEY'RE GOING?

MOMENTS LATER...
WHOEVER THEY'RE MEETING, THEY BROUGHT THE MONEY WITH 'EM! THAT'LL MAKE MY JOB EASIER...
...MAYBE A ROBIN CAN BAG TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE!


THANK YOU, MR.--er--MATCHES! IT IS INDEED A PLEASURE DOING--
BRONCO! WHAT'S THE MATTER?!
L-LOOK!
GAPE IN AWE, SPAWN OF EVIL--

THE BATMAN IS HERE... TO PUNISH YOU FOR YOUR WRONGDOING! RETURN THE MONEY YOU STOLE--OR TASTE MY VENGEANCE!
BLAST!
EVEN DISGUISED, I'D KNOW ROBIN'S VOICE ANYWHERE! I ADMIRE THE KID'S SPUNK...
...BUT HE MAY BLOW THE WHOLE DEAL...
...AND GET HIMSELF KILLED IN THE PROCESS! BURNS' FILE SAID HE WAS TRIGGER-HAPPY!
ONLY ONE CHOICE...!
NO NEED FER HARDWARE-- I'LL TAKE CARE'A OL' POINTY-EARS MYSELF!
HUH? BA--MALONE! WHAT ARE YOU--
...AS I SUSPECTED-- ROBIN'S BODY STOCKING HAMPERS HIS MOVEMENT ENOUGH TO GIVE ME AN EASY EDGE--
--AS WELL AS CUSHIONING MY PUNCHES! ROBIN WILL JUST GET THE WIND KNOCKED OUT OF HIM!
--UHHHH!
WHEE-OH! YUH SURE HOGTIED HIM, MATCHES!
INDEED! IT APPEARS THE BATMAN'S REPUTATION HAS BEEN HIGHLY...ENHANCED! SHALL WE END IT... PERMANENTLY?
WHUF!
NAH! OFF HIM, AND YA GOT A MILLION OTHER SUPER-DUDES AFTER YA!
JUST SCRAM! I'LL KEEP BATS OUTTA YER HAIR!
SNAP
THANK YOU, MR. MALONE--FOR EVERYTHING!
7

OOOH... ANYBODY GET THE LICENSE NUMBER OF THAT... TRUCK?
SORRY TO ROUGH YOU UP, ROBIN -- BUT THOSE CON MEN WOULD HAVE DONE A LOT WORSE!
I UNDERSTAND, BATMAN... I JUST WISH I'D DONE SOMETHING RIGHT ON THIS CASE! I HAD NO IDEA I'D BE STEPPING ON YOUR SET-UP!
FFSSS
EXACTLY, ROBIN -- YOU PREPARED YOUR OWN PLAN, WITHOUT ANY HELP FROM ME ... A GOOD PLAN, TOO!
JUST DO ME ONE FAVOR NEXT TIME, CHUM?
WHAT'S THAT?
NEXT TIME, DON'T WRITE YOUR OWN DIALOGUE! YOUR "BATMAN" IS ABOMINABLE!
HAHAHAHAHAHA!
SEVERAL HUNDRED MILES FROM GOTHAM CITY... AND SEVERAL HOURS LATER...
--THIS JUST IN: GOTHAM CITY POLICE HAVE RECOVERED THE $50,000 STOLEN FROM THE GOTHAM BOYS' LEAGUE!
CONSARN! THE BATMAN MUSTA STUNG MALONE AFTER ALL! BUT AT LEAST WE STILL GOT--
NO! OH, NO!
THESE BONDS -- NOTHING BUT BAT-SHAPES! THEY'RE WORTHLESS!
THE BATMAN STUNG US, TOO! BUT HOW? HOW?
I DUNNO ABOUT YEW, PARTNER...
...BUT I AIN'T NEVER GOIN' BACK T'FIND OUT! AH'M GIVIN' GOTHAM CITY A WIDE BERTH FROM NOW ON!
AGREED, MR. BURNS. =SIGH= ...AGREED!
THE END
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